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(54) **BUOYANT DEVICE FOR BI-DIRECTIONAL ACOUSTO-OPTIC SIGNAL TRANSFER ACROSS THE AIR-WATER INTERFACE**

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(58) **Field of Search** 367/3, 134

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A buoy system bi-directionally communicates in-air and underwater. A buoy having a shell to float on water has an upper portion in air and a lower portion in water. An array of acoustic transducers which is disposed in the lower portion receives acoustic signals and transmits acoustic signals. A dome-shaped retro-reflective coating on the upper portion is vibrated for retro-reflecting impinging laser illumination as data signals in air. An array of photo-detectors on the upper portion are responsive to impinging laser control signals and/or signals which may be transmitted as acoustic signals in water.

12 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet